

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Claims 1-40 (cancelled)**

41. (Currently amended) A method of removing a clostridial toxin from a preparation of clostridial toxin ~~derivatives~~ fragments or conjugates thereof, comprising:

- (i) applying said preparation to a first affinity column, wherein said first affinity column comprises a first ligand immobilised immobilized on said first affinity column, and wherein said first ligand selectively binds to the clostridial toxin but does not bind to the clostridial toxin ~~derivatives~~ fragments or conjugates thereof, thereby forming an immobilised immobilized first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, and an eluate comprising the clostridial toxin ~~derivatives~~ fragments or conjugates thereof, wherein said eluate may contain an amount of first ligand-clostridial toxin complex that has become detached from the first affinity column;
- (ii) contacting said eluate with a second affinity column, wherein said second affinity column comprises a second ligand immobilised immobilized on said second affinity column, and wherein said second ligand ~~selectively binds to the first ligand, or~~ selectively binds to the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, ~~or selectively binds to the clostridial toxin, if present in the eluate, wherein said second ligand binds to the first ligand part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex and/or to the clostridial toxin part of the first ligand-~~

clostridial toxin complex, but does not bind to the clostridial toxin derivatives fragments or conjugates thereof present in the eluate; and thereby removing the clostridial toxin from the preparation of clostridial toxin derivatives fragments or conjugates thereof.

42. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the first ligand is an antibody.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the first ligand is a metal ion.

44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the second ligand is an antibody.

45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the second ligand is Protein G.

46. (New) A method of removing a clostridial toxin from a preparation of clostridial toxin fragments, comprising:

(i) applying said preparation to a first affinity column, wherein said first affinity column comprises a first ligand immobilized on said first affinity column, and wherein said first ligand selectively binds to the clostridial toxin but does not bind to the clostridial toxin fragments, thereby forming an immobilized first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, and an eluate comprising the clostridial toxin fragments, wherein said eluate may contain an amount of first ligand-

clostridial toxin complex that has become detached from the first affinity column;

(ii) contacting said eluate with a second affinity column, wherein said second affinity column comprises a second ligand immobilized on said second affinity column, and wherein said second ligand selectively binds to the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, if present in the eluate, wherein said second ligand binds to the first ligand part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex and/or to the clostridial toxin part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, but does not bind to the clostridial toxin fragments present in the eluate; and

thereby removing the clostridial toxin from the preparation of clostridial toxin fragments.

47. (New) A method of removing a clostridial toxin from a preparation of clostridial LH<sub>N</sub>, comprising:

(i) applying said preparation to a first affinity column, wherein said first affinity column comprises a first ligand immobilized on said first affinity column, and wherein said first ligand selectively binds to the clostridial toxin but does not bind to the clostridial LH<sub>N</sub>, thereby forming an immobilized first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, and an eluate comprising the clostridial LH<sub>N</sub>, wherein said eluate may contain an amount of first ligand-clostridial toxin complex that has become detached from the first affinity column;

(ii) contacting said eluate with a second affinity column, wherein said second affinity column comprises a second ligand immobilized on said second affinity column, and wherein said second ligand selectively binds to the first ligand part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex and/or to the clostridial toxin part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, but does not bind to the clostridial toxin fragments present in the eluate; and

affinity column, and wherein said second ligand selectively binds to the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, if present in the eluate, wherein said second ligand binds to the first ligand part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex and/or to the clostridial toxin part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex, but does not bind to the clostridial LH<sub>N</sub> present in the eluate; and thereby removing the clostridial toxin from the preparation of clostridial LH<sub>N</sub>.